

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A communication method in which at least first and second communication devices are provided and wireless communication is performed between the respective communication devices in accordance with a predetermined communication method, wherein

when a predetermined connection operation is performed in said first communication device, the communication device selects a transmitting distance, generates an inquiry message to discover other devices, and wirelessly transmits the inquiry message over the selected distance; ~~an inquiry message to discover a device to be connected by the wireless communication is wirelessly transmitted after restricting a transmissible distance to a close range;~~

when a predetermined standby operation is performed in said second communication device, said inquiry message is received and a ~~an~~ response message to the received inquiry message is wirelessly transmitted; and

said first communication device performs connection processing with respect to said second communication device, when the response message is received.

2. (Original) The communication method according to claim 1, wherein the processing to restrict said transmissible distance to the close range is processing to set transmission power to a limited value compared to the transmission power at the time of normal wireless communication.

3. (Original) The communication method according to claim 1, wherein wireless transmission of the inquiry message by a predetermined connection operation and/or reception of the inquiry message by a predetermined standby operation is performed while operation means provided in the respective communication devices are continuously operated.

4. (Original) The communication method according to claim 1, wherein after said connection processing is performed, data transfer processing is performed in accordance with a program which is being executed in the first or the second communication device.

5. (Currently Amended) The communication method according to claim 1, wherein said second communication device lowers reception sensitivity to the inquiry message, so that only the inquiry message wirelessly transmitted from the within close range can be received.

6. (Original) The communication method according to claim 1, wherein the connection operation in said first communication device and the standby operation in said second communication device are made to be a common operation, and when the common operation is performed, transmission processing of the inquiry message and reception processing of the inquiry message are alternately performed.

7. (Original) The communication method according to claim 1, wherein the connection operation in said first communication device is a limited inquiry message which is distinguishable from a type of the inquiry message and said second communication device is made to await said limited inquiry message.

8. (Original) The communication method according to claim 1, wherein the connection operation in said first communication device is to select a general inquiry message or an arbitrary limited inquiry message, which should be transmitted, and said second communication device is to select the general inquiry message or the arbitrary limited inquiry message, which should be awaited.

9. (Currently Amended) A communication system in which at least first and second communication devices are provided and wireless communication is performed between respective communication devices by a predetermined communication method, wherein said first communication device comprises:

communication processing means to perform transmission and reception of a wireless signal;

connection operation means; and

control means to select a transmitting distance, generate an inquiry message to discover other devices, wirelessly transmit the inquiry message over the selected distance using ~~make an inquiry message transmitted from~~ said communication processing means, ~~in a state in which a transmissible distance is restricted to a close range when said connection operation means is operated~~ and to perform connection processing with respect to a transmission source of the response message when the response message to the inquiry message is received; and

said second communication device comprises:

communication processing means to perform transmission and reception of a wireless signal,

standby operation means, and

control means to make said inquiry message received by said communication processing means when said standby operation means is operated and to make the response message to the received inquiry message wirelessly transmitted by said communication processing means.

10. (Original) The communication system according to claim 9, wherein the processing to restrict the transmissible distance to the close range in said first communication device is processing to set transmission power in said communication processing means to a limited value compared to the transmission power at the time of normal wireless communication.

11. (Original) The communication system according to claim 9, wherein while the connection operation means of said first communication device is continuously operated, the control means of said first communication device makes the inquiry message transmitted; and

while the standby operation means of said second communication device is continuously operated, the control means of said second communication device makes the inquiry message received.

12. (Original) The communication system according to claim 9, wherein when the connection processing is completed by the control means of said first communication device, data transfer processing is performed in accordance with a program which is being executed in the first or second communication device.

13. (Currently Amended) The communication system according to claim 9, wherein the communication processing means of said second communication device

lowers the reception sensitivity to the inquiry message so that only the inquiry message wirelessly transmitted from ~~the~~ within close range can be received.

14. (Original) The communication system according to claim 9, wherein the connection operation means of said first communication device and the standby operation means of said second communication device are made to be a common operation means, and

when the common operation means is operated, the control means of the respective communication devices perform control to make both the transmission processing of the inquiry message and the reception processing of the inquiry message performed alternately by the communication processing means.

15. (Original) The communication system according to claim 9, wherein the inquiry message in said first communication device is a limited inquiry message which is distinguishable from a general inquiry message and said second communication device is made to await said limited inquiry message.

16. (Original) The communication system according to claim 9, wherein the connection operation in said first communication device is to select a general inquiry message or an arbitrary limited inquiry message, which should be transmitted and said second communication device is to select the general inquiry message or the arbitrary limited inquiry message, which should be awaited.

17. (Currently Amended) A communication device which performs wireless communication with another communication device in accordance with a predetermined communication method, comprising:

communication processing means to perform transmission and reception of a wireless signal;

connection operation means;

standby operation means; and

control means to select a transmitting distance, generate an inquiry message to discover other devices, wirelessly transmit the inquiry message over the selected distance using ~~make an inquiry message transmitted from~~ said communication processing means, ~~in a state in which a transmissible distance is restricted to a close range when said connection operation means is operated~~ and to perform connection processing with respect to a transmission source of the response message when the response message to the inquiry message is received;

wherein when said standby operation means is operated, said control means makes the inquiry message received and makes the response message to the inquiry message transmitted by said communication processing means;

said connection operation means and standby operation means are made to be a common operation means; and

when the common operation means is operated, said control means performs control to make both the transmission processing of the inquiry message and the reception processing of the inquiry message alternately performed by the communication processing means.

18. (Original) The communication device according to claim 17, wherein the processing to restrict the transmissible distance to the close range is processing to set

transmission power in the communication processing means to a limited value compared to the transmission power at the time of normal wireless communication.

19. (Original) The communication device according to claim 17, wherein while said connection operation means is continuously operated, said control means performs processing to make the inquiry message transmitted.

20. (Original) The communication device according to claim 17, wherein when the connection processing is completed by said control means, data transfer processing is performed in accordance with a program which is being executed.

21. (Original) The communication device according to claim 17, further comprising:

standby operation means,

wherein when said standby operation means is operated, said control means makes the inquiry message received by said communication processing means and makes the response message to the received inquiry message wirelessly transmitted by said communication processing means.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) The communication device according to claim 17, wherein said connection operation means includes means to select a type of the inquiry message, so that the selected inquiry message of an arbitrary type can be transmitted.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) The communication device according to claim 17, wherein while said standby operation means is continuously operated, said control means performs processing to make the inquiry message received.

26. (Currently Amended) The communication device according to claim 17, wherein said communication processing means lowers the reception sensitivity to the inquiry message so that only the inquiry message wirelessly transmitted from ~~the~~ within close range can be received.

27. (Previously Presented) The communication device according to claim 17, wherein said standby operation means includes means to select the inquiry message which should be awaited so that the inquiry message of a selected arbitrary type can be received.